[English]

Fertilizer Policy

2069. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Punjab Haryana for drastic review of fertilizer policy" appearing in the 'Asian Age' dated June 24, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the changes sought by both the State Governments ; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The representatives of Government of Punjab and Haryana in their presentation before the High Powered Fertilizer Pricing Policy Review Committee on 20th June, 1997 made wide ranging suggestions for consideration. Some of these suggestions were re-inclusion of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers under Retention Price cum Subsidy Scheme (RPS) a freeze in prices of fertilizer inputs, revision of secondary freight rates, stability in fertilizer policy, etc.

(c) The Committee is yet to finalise its report and the decision of the Government will be taken in the light of the Committee's recommendations.

Chuchura Rice Research Centre

2070. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :
SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :
SHRI ANIL BASU :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the scientists of Chuchura Rice Research Centre, West Bengal have dicovered four varieties of high-breed rice this year ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to popularise these varieties of rice in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) whether the Government have provided any Central assistance to the said centre during the last three years;

(f) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(g) whether Government have received any request from the said centre to increase the Central assistance during the current year;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir, the Chinsurah Rice Research Centre, West Bengal has developed four rice hybrids.

(b) These four hybrids are CNRH-1, CNRH-2, CHRH-3, AND CNRH-4. Among these CNRH-3 has been released for cultivation during boro-season by the West Bengal Government. The other three are still under testing stages.

(c) and (d) Like all latest released varieties of crop plants CNRH-3 would be popularised for boro-season cultivation in the state of West Bengal where it has been released.

(e) and (f) Chinsurah Rice Research Centre is one of the cooperating centres under the All India Crop Improvement Project of the ICAR on Rice. Funds approved by ICAR for the centre during last three years are as follows :

(Rs. in lakhs)

1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
9.71	6.80	8.30

(g) to (i) No proposal is pending in the Council concerning enhance assistance to the centre.

Production of Drugs

2071. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of some drugs is not adequate and is being supplemented through imports by the canalising agency;

(b) if so, the names of all those drugs alongwith the indigenous production as well as quantum of import of each such drug during the last three years, year-wise ;

(c) whether any pool price, in respect of any drug has been fixed ;

(d) if so, the names of those drugs and the pool price fixed together with the indigenous and import price of each;

(e) whether there is any proposal to abolish the system of pool prices ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (f) As per Import Policy, all drugs, except for a few items listed under negative list can be imported by any person under Open General Licence